

context+

B O O K S

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Dear Ted,

I'm writing to you about my last letter and the final work that needs to be done on *Truth versus Lies*. Apparently the prison will not allow us to make legal calls to you because the matter does not involve a pending court date or decision. I spoke to Hector several times, and there was just no making it happen. What I really wanted to do was get word to you through Miller that I would honor the agreement and the book had been pulled off press. I thought the matter might give rise to anxiety, as it would were I in the same position and unable to communicate via telephone.

I think the best thing to do at this point is to have you hold on to the book and *all* of your corrections until you are sure everything is as it should be. The fewer changes you can make now would be the most cost effective for me, but I will do as you please regardless. If you are interested, it would be economically more advantageous were we to make the necessary changes to this edition, and then run in the rump of Chapter 10 and other such larger changes in the second edition, which can be produced quickly. When everything is as it should be you can then send your changes all at the same time.

I would prefer the next batch to be in a finished form. This will make it possible for you to include a letter confirming that you approve the book for publication; providing that Context Books accepts full legal responsibility in the event that any of the amendments are made inaccurately. It should say, in effect, that Context is free to commence with the printing and distribution of *Truth versus Lies*. This permission will have to be unequivocal,* and the printing will commence shortly after the changes are received and checked for accuracy, so it will have to wait until you are quite certain that all is well with regard to the various concerns that you have expressed to me.

*There is no equivocation in the proviso, as I understand it.

I have now received the changes you sent in your letter # 83. As you will see, some of the changes you requested were anticipated. I hope that the wording in those instances will be sufficient, and that any finessing there can be done in the second edition. If you would like the changes you have listed there (in toto this would include the running in of Chapter 10, which I would prefer to do in the second edition) then please let me know in the final changes that you will be sending to me. In other words, it would be best if you could send me a photocopy of letter #83 (enclosed) indicating which changes are to be included in the final round-up. Since those changes currently refer to an earlier set of page-proofs, please let me know if the reference is still to the previous proofs, or if it refers to the final galleys. The latter would be preferable, since some changes have been made along similar lines to the ones you requested, and it would make things simpler.

I am indeed disappointed to hear that we will be unable to take care of some of these issues on the phone. But there really are no more legal issues *as far as we* are concerned. I understand that there are some issues for you to work out with regard to sources, but that does not effect the legal okay that we have gotten from Miller. I can assure you that Miller and Korzenick have been very vigilant in their work. When they okay a book for publication, it is a serious and sober decision on their part. They know what the consequences of a misstep would be with regard to your book. Miller is very good when it comes to keeping your goals in view, and he has edited with an eye to keeping the argument intact and strong, without inviting any frivolous litigants.

Norse is Norse and souse is souse, there *Thor* there will be no crash. See, I can even make a bad pun worse! Do you know any Spoonerisms? The only one I can think of right now comes from Maitre'D fame: "Let me sew you to your sheets." Here's a French/English ^{pun} ~~one~~ that offers another name for God: Pa[s] de tout! (Father of all/Not at all). One could do the same for the devil: Pa[s] Mal (Father Evil/Not bad).

I am reading the first few chapters of a book on the private lives of Kremlin rulers from Ivan the Dispeptic to Yeltsin the Blotto, which has been offered to me for publication. It is quite interesting. Do you think Czar Boris Godunov was somehow transmogrified into Goodenough while en route through Ellis Island?

is very excited about the upcoming interview. I like her so much. She just did me the honor of asking whether I would hold the duplicate key to her safety deposit box—a very high compliment I thought, and a duty which I will perform according to her will. She's great.

More later, I dare not ask whether this finds you well knowing full well that your hands are full.

Fondly,
Dean.